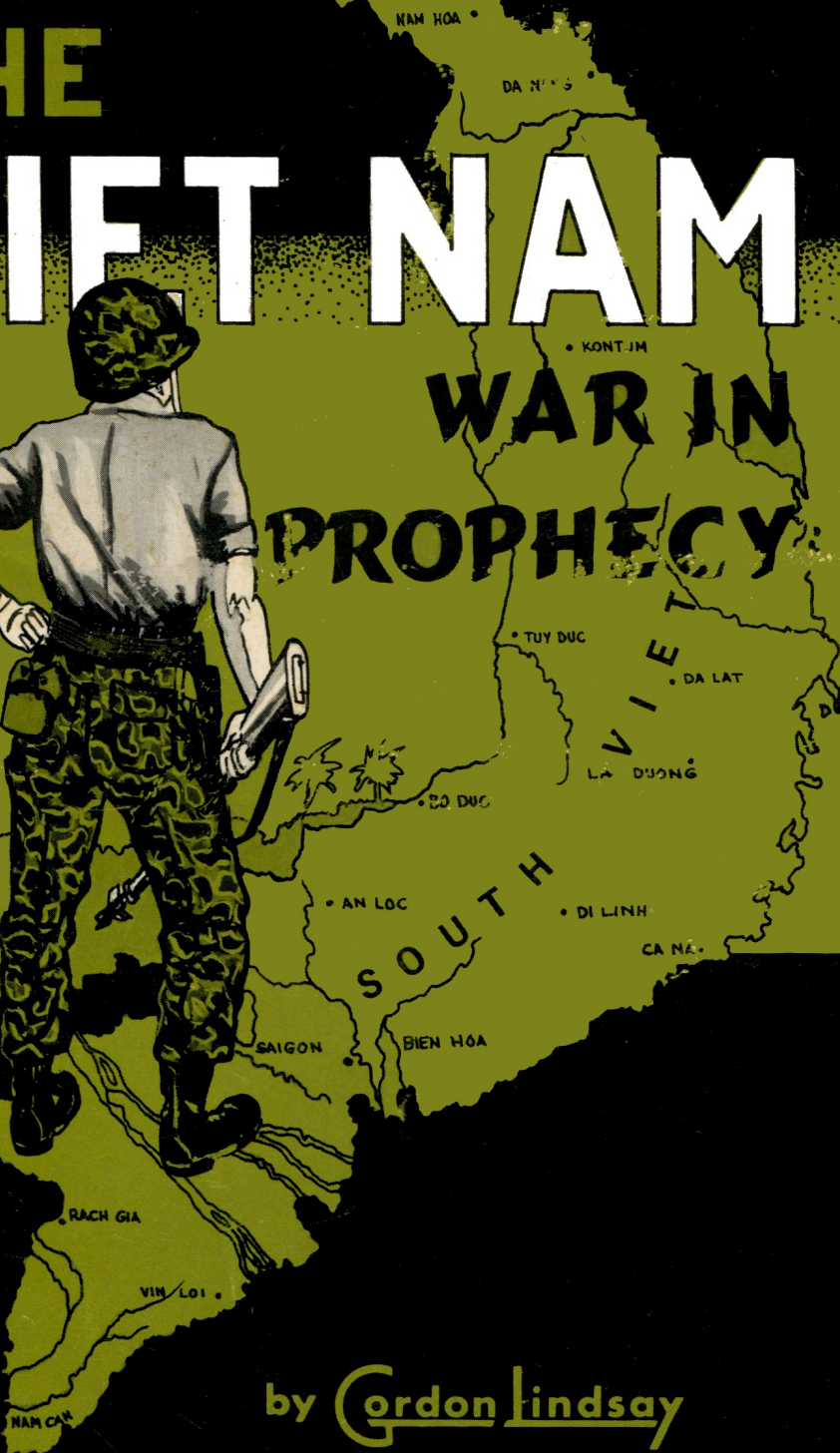


THE VIET NAM

WAR IN PROPHECY



by Gordon Lindsay

THE VIETNAM WAR IN PROPHECY

In our book prepared in 1965 entitled *The U.S. in Prophecy*, I included a chart (see pages 18 and 19) which demonstrates that the wars of the U.S. are not happening at random, but are occurring regularly and at 17-year cycles. This is a most remarkable phenomenon and clearly reveals the overruling of a divine providence. The chart seemed to indicate that in all probability we would be in war at least to the year 1967, and that is why we could see no chance whatever for the extended peace offensive of Christmas, 1965.

In this present volume, we answer many of the questions that are being asked about this present war. What should be a Christian's attitude to it in the light of prophecy, and what does the Bible teach about it? Included are answers to the following questions:

Why has God permitted America to be involved in the Vietnam war?

Could this conflict have been averted?

Why has America not been able to achieve victory in spite of her vastly superior strength?

Should the war be settled by negotiation?

What would happen to Christianity in Vietnam if the Communists should get control?

Will other nations fall to the Communists in the Far East?

Will Red China enter the war?

Will Red China and Russia settle their differences and team up against the U.S.?

Will China get the hydrogen bomb and precipitate a nuclear world war?

Is it wrong for a Christian to go to war?

What can Christians do about the Vietnam war?

These and many other questions are answered in this timely book that will bring you up to the moment on the significance of this war in Vietnam and its outcome.

The Vietnam War in Prophecy

by Gordon Lindsay

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Chapter I

How the U.S. Got Into the War

Before World War II the three associated states of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia were under French colonial rule. When France fell in 1940, the Japanese took advantage of the prostrate condition of the Vichy government and prepared to take over Indochina to use it as a base for the occupation of Southeast Asia. After the Pearl Harbor attack they moved in with powerful forces and soon had these three countries under their control.

At that time Ho Chi Minh, a Moscow trained Communist, led a resistance movement against the Japanese. The United States provided aid and military supplies to help this guerrilla campaign against the Japanese. At one time America was an actual ally to the present leader of the North Vietnamese!

At Tehran in 1943 and at Yalta in 1945 President Franklin Roosevelt proposed that after the war a kind of international trusteeship be set up to prepare the people for independence. Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek gave his assurance that he had no post-war designs on Indochina. Stalin blandly indicated that he had no interests in that country either.

Nevertheless, at the very time Stalin made his promise, his agents were engaged in a conspiracy with Ho Chi Minh for making Indochina a Communist state. He was encouraging a Communist takeover there, as he was also doing in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, and other east European countries. American statesmen in their naivete believed Stalin, only to discover later that they had saved Indochina from one master to have it swallowed up by another.

December 19, 1946, Ho Chi Minh proclaimed a people's republic in North Vietnam. The French, just recovering from their disastrous defeat in World War II, instituted a military

action against him. This war dragged along for eight years. A new kind of guerrilla warfare was introduced that baffled and outfought the powerful French army.

In the meantime while Ho Chi Minh was seeking to set up a Communist state in Vietnam, Mao Tse-tung, supplied with weapons from Russia that she had captured from the Japanese, began a determined campaign to overthrow the nationalist armies of Chiang Kai-shek. General George Marshall was sent to China to seek a solution to the Communist insurrection in that country. Becoming persuaded that the Chinese Communists were only “agrarian reformers” and had no plans for world conquest, he recommended that the Communists be permitted to join in a coalition government with Chiang Kai-shek. Chiang knew that only disaster could result from such a policy and refused. Marshall ordered all American aid withdrawn. His act proved to be one of the most disastrous decisions ever made by the U.S. government. While Chiang was deprived of all U.S. aid, Stalin supplied the Chinese Communists with vast quantities of war materials. Chiang had no alternative but to flee with his army to Formosa.

In 1950 the U.S. government suddenly woke up to the fact that its understanding of the plans and goals of the Chinese Communists was profoundly in error. This fateful blunder had given the Communists a power base in China which in time would cost the U.S. countless billions of dollars, not to speak of the fearful loss of American lives.

Russia and China joined together to supply the North Koreans with arms for an all-out aggression against South Korea, which began June 25, 1950. As a result of this unwarranted attack, America became involved in the Korean War. In the end the U.S. was able to thwart the Communist attempt to swallow up South Korea, but she did not win the war. Altogether, America had 157,530 casualties including 54,246 dead.

Belatedly recognizing the true goal of the Communist conspiracy, the U.S. began to supply arms to the French to

prevent a Communist takeover in Vietnam. But with the ending of the Korean war, the Communists were free to pour in vast quantities of military supplies to the aid of Ho Chi Minh. By 1954 the French had suffered 253,000 casualties, with 92,000 killed. They made desperate appeals to America for assistance, but she and the Western nations still failed to realize the deadly nature of Communism and its relentless purpose to overthrow and destroy democracy everywhere. With the French ready to give up, another fateful decision was made. It was decided at a 14-nation conference at Geneva to permit the Communists to take over North Vietnam. It was Europe of 1938 all over again. In both cases the nations concerned thought to solve the situation by appeasement.

President Eisenhower gave a clear view of the situation when he wrote his book *Mandate for Change*:

The attitude of the British was disturbing in that they seemed to put such a heavy reliance on the value of the fact that Communists were to join in the discussions. But their willingness to participate in any international conference never implied that they would either make concessions or keep promises. I had long ago learned that no agreement with the Communists is worth the paper it is written on unless it contains its own self-enforcing procedures.

After the 14-nation conference in Geneva the war was supposedly ended in Southeast Asia by dividing Vietnam at the seventeenth parallel into a Communist north and a free south. At the same time the signatories agreed to respect independence for Laos and Cambodia.

The Communists had a healthy respect for General Eisenhower's reputation as the commander of the allied invasion forces that defeated Hitler. There were continuing incidents, but nothing like the Korean aggression of 1950.

In the meantime South Vietnam prospered. Although its economy had been a shambles, the years 1956-60 produced an economic miracle. The world was becoming aware of the difference between the stagnant Communist regime of the North

and the economic achievements of South Vietnam. It was the same story of the economic superiority of West Germany over Communist East Germany. The leaders of North Vietnam could not accept this prospect.

Taking advantage of the opportunity afforded by the U.S. involvement in its 1960 political campaigns, the Communist leaders of North Vietnam met on September 23, 1960, and decided on a guerrilla warfare that would take over South Vietnam by force. They organized a subversive Fifth Column of guerrillas designed to reach every hamlet and village of South Vietnam. The head chief of each hamlet that would not cooperate was marked for death. Thus did the Viet Cong reign of terror begin. The Soviets and the Chinese with North Vietnamese began supplying arms by airlift to Hanoi and the Communist Pathet Lao forces in Laos. The build-up proceeded fast. By June, 1961, the situation was serious. Diem proclaimed a state of national emergency. U.S. President John F. Kennedy called for direct and immediate action. Funds were provided for training and combat supervision of troops for the South Vietnam army.

The president gave assurance to Mr. Diem that the United States "is determined to help Vietnam preserve its independence, protect its people against Communist assassins, and build a better life." From this time on American aid to Vietnam was employed on an ever-increasing scale.

In the meantime, in further violation of the Geneva agreement the Communists had also extended their control over three-fourths of Laos. Using that country as a sanctuary, they infiltrated guerrilla troops and supplies into every part of South Vietnam.

Nevertheless, counter measures adopted by the U.S. government to help the Vietnamese were fairly successful in slowing the infiltration until November 1, 1963, when mutineers murdered President Ngo Dinh Diem and his brother Ngo Dinh Nho. In the ensuing confusion the Communists began an all-out effort to conquer South Vietnam. To make matters worse, the

How the U.S. Got Into the War

fanatical Buddhists began their demonstrations and opposition to the Saigon government. A succession of coups took place. In less than two years there were seven changes of government. Finally General Ky, air force commander, became premier. The situation by this time was serious indeed. Viet Cong guerrillas dominated the country from one end to the other, and the elated North Vietnam leaders felt victory was in the air.

It was at this moment that President Lyndon Johnson decided that America could not afford to allow another nation to become Communist by force. Bombing of North Vietnam was ordered, and since that time there has been a gradual escalation of the war. The increased war effort has resulted in protests from many quarters in America. There have been violent demonstrations on campuses and elsewhere, demanding that the U.S. get out of the war and leave the country to the Communists.

It is not easy for the President to know what to do. One thing is certain. If President Johnson had pulled U.S. troops out of Vietnam and allowed the Communists to take over, his name would be vilified ten thousand times over—by many of the same ones who are the loudest against his policy now. Chamberlain gave in to Hitler at Munich in 1938. He came back a hero. But his day of glory did not last long. When Hitler invaded Poland and defeated France, Chamberlain became known as the appeaser and died not long after, broken in body and in spirit.

Chapter II

Why Have We Not Won the War?

Why have we not won the war with our vastly superior strength? The reason has been simply because of fear of escalating the conflict into a war with China. A considerable number of our congressional leaders have made dire prophecies that if we hit the North in full force, this would bring China into the conflict, which might escalate into a nuclear war that could cause the deaths of hundreds of millions of people.

It is well known that the Chinese leaders have done everything possible to promote this fear. They have a standing army of several million soldiers, and they threaten to move down on South Vietnam in great force. It has been pointed out many times that if North Vietnam with its comparatively limited resources has been able to hold the U.S. at bay, what would happen if China, a nation of over 700 million on Vietnam's borders should enter the conflict? This consideration has been enough to give many Congressmen nightmares.

Actually, the picture has been overdrawn. While Red China does border on North Vietnam, even as it does on Korea, the present situation is considerably different from that of the Korean conflict, for in this case a range of high mountains lies between the two countries. The only passageways are through two steep mountain passes, both of which can be blocked by bombing the railroad bridges. For China to carry on a major war in Vietnam, a tremendous flow of supplies would have to be maintained. An alternate method would be to bring their soldiers in by sea, but China has only a small obsolete navy that is no match for the powerful U.S. fleet. Moreover, Russia which once supplied China with hard equipment has ceased all such operations.

The situation would be radically different if China were able

to pour her troops into North Vietnam, for her foot soldiers are well provided with automatic hand weapons and small artillery. They could by carrying on an all-out guerrilla warfare make the U.S. position in Vietnam untenable short of nuclear war. But China cannot send her hordes through the mountain passes against modern air power.

The facts are that China is at a serious disadvantage to wage war anywhere except where there is level ground over which her army can march. The Chinese were able to seize Tibet, which was without any defenses, on the high steppes; but they have never been able to invade the Island of Taiwan and bring down the hated Chiang Kai-shek, who has an army of only 500,000. Nor did they attempt to invade the islands of Matsu and Quemoy, which are only a few miles from the mainland.

What China really has been counting on is for the Vietnam war to continue until the people of the U.S. become discouraged and withdraw their forces. That would give her opportunity to pursue her inflexible goal to dominate the Orient. The Communists are gambling, therefore, that the U.S. will get tired of the war, back down, and offer them a "bribe" to stop their aggressions.

Most observers in Vietnam are agreed that the only way to win the war in a reasonable time is by an all-out massive bombardment of every military target in North Vietnam and a tight blockade of the port of Haiphong.

The enemy is convinced that they have the U.S. trapped in a long costly war, unable to win or get out, that the longer it goes on the more discord there will be in the homeland, the more draft-card burnings, the more seditious speeches made until at last the will to win will be lost.

The Result of Giving Sanctuary to North Vietnam Military Targets

Realizing that time was running out against them, the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff recommended that the Air Force be

permitted to blow up the Communist oil supplies and other military targets before the North Vietnamese could decentralize their war effort. This idea however, was vetoed, and valuable months were lost. Now that the bombing has begun, military analysts fear that it may be too late to knock North Vietnam out of the war by conventional bombing. Much of the oil supplies have already been dispersed throughout the country. One strategist says: "Something fundamental has happened. Since the U.S. bombings started at low key and continued that way more than a year ago, Hanoi has been able to disperse its industry into caves and organize the civilians to live in self-sustaining geographic units. There were some vital targets a year ago. There are few today" (*U.S. News and World Report*, June 20, 1966).

Can the War Be Settled by Negotiation?

Many are urging negotiations as the best way to end the war. Students are demonstrating against the conflict by tearing up draft cards, and lying down in front of troop trains. Intellectuals, novelists, artists, and actors are protesting against the war and calling for a negotiated peace in South Vietnam.

But would it work? Richard Nixon (*Reader's Digest*, December, 1965) contends that anyone who really understands Communism knows it would not. To negotiate with the enemy before he is driven out of the country would be the same as negotiating with Adolph Hitler before his army had been driven out of France.

What has been the result of negotiation with the Communists in the past? In March, 1961, President John F. Kennedy pledged the U.S. against a Communist takeover in Laos. Two months later the U.S. and 13 other nations met in Geneva to set up a neutral Laos. An agreement for a cease-fire was reached June 24, 1962. What was the result of these negotiations? The non-Communist government of Laos was forced into a coalition with the Communists. An agreement was reached whereby the Communists from North Vietnam and the

U.S. would leave the country. The U.S. kept her word, but the Communists in violation of their promise stayed on. The U.S. had made a commitment to keep Laos free of Communism, but she failed to stand by it. Certainly, it would be fatal now if America did not keep her word to stand firm in Vietnam.

It is said that continued fighting in Vietnam will lead to World War III. But if the Reds win, it will surely increase the danger. Once the Communists gain from their aggressions, they will be encouraged to confront the West with more Vietnams.

Furthermore, if Vietnam is lost, the Chinese will gain vast new power. At this moment they have their eyes on Taiwan, the Philippines, Japan, and Korea. They are thirsting for revenge against Indonesia. As they gradually increase their nuclear capability, the Red Chinese will attempt to blackmail their way among the uncommitted nations.

Many military experts are convinced that this is our last opportunity to halt Red China's mad dream of world conquest. At present she has suffered a terrible reverse in Indonesia, and she has discarded Soviet Russia as an ally. It is possible, however, that later Russia and China will close ranks. Therefore, while the enemy is divided, it is time to take a strong hand.

We must keep in mind that North Vietnam backed by Red China has committed a naked aggression against South Vietnam. There is no reason to offer her any rewards. The Communists will give up their hope of taking that country only when they are forced to do so.

No doubt one of the gravest mistakes that has been made has been to talk so much about negotiations. The suspension of bombings in December and January 1965-1966 was a serious blunder. Orientals regarded this as a sign of weakness. The only way to get the Communists to the conference table is for them to see that they have no chance to win. Negotiations should only begin when adequate safeguards are arranged that will not permit them to repeat their aggressions. Communism simply must not spread any further than it has. The settlement when it comes must guarantee South Vietnam's freedom. *Without this*

guarantee Christianity in Vietnam would cease to exist in a short time. And that is not all. As former President Dwight Eisenhower has said, if Vietnam falls, the nations of Southeast Asia will fall into the Communist orbit one at a time, like a row of dominoes.

Should Plans Be Made to Take the Viet Cong Into a Future Vietnam Government?

Having determined that there can be no compromise with North Vietnam in the matter of permitting their aggression to succeed, what about the Viet Cong, the rebellious South Vietnamese who have defected to the Communists? Should they be taken into a new South Vietnamese government? History gives us the answer to this question. No non-Communist and Communist government will work. At Yalta there was a long discussion about a recognized Polish government. It was finally agreed to set up a provisional government with both Communist and non-Communist members which would then supervise the conduct of free elections.

How did this turn out? There was only one way that it could. Communism knows no such thing as co-existence—only treachery and betrayal. Promises are made only to be broken. The Communists of Poland in a short time got rid of the non-Communists by one means or another. Then they had a rigged election with 89 per cent of the people supposedly voting for the Communists. *Imagine Poland, which had been raped by the Russian army, voting 89 percent to go Communist!*

Who are the Viet Cong? Pursuing their usual methods, the Communists formed a so-called Liberation Front in South Vietnam. This party is controlled directly by Hanoi. That fact is proven by captured documents and by statements made by prisoners themselves. To introduce the Viet Cong into the Vietnam government would be to put the Communists directly into the saddle. South Vietnam would simply become a Communist state. All sacrifices made by those who have died in the struggle would be in vain.

Has the U.S. Made a Mistake by Going to the Aid of South Vietnam?

With so many protests being made against the war to prevent a Communist take-over, is it possible that the U.S. has made a mistake? This is not a political question. The free world's very future is at stake. Vice President Hubert Humphrey has well articulated the issue in his speech at the annual luncheon meeting of the Associated Press in New York City, April 25, 1966, when he said:

Some people say that we should not be in Vietnam, that we should have not intervened... If we had applied the doctrine of non-intervention in Greece after World War II, that country would be controlled by the Communists today. If the British had applied it in Malaya, the same thing would have happened there. In both cases, but for the timely outside aid, militant and determined Communist minorities would have seized and held power. In both cases subsequent elections proved that the Communists were indeed a minority—and a small one at that.

And I might add, if we had left South Korea alone in the face of Communist aggression from the North, there would be no South Korea today. History should have taught us by now that Communists are dedicated to seeking power in, whatever way they can get it. If they succeed in seizing power by force in one country, they will be tempted to try it in others. Indeed 'Liberation Fronts' have already been set up for both Thailand and Malaysia.

Then I've heard that the struggle for Vietnam is a civil war. The National Liberation Front (the members of the Vietcong) is exactly what it says it is—a front. That is the only honest word in its title. It is not national. It liberates no one. It is a front of Ho Chi Minh from Hanoi. And he says so. The only people who seem to misunderstand him are some here in the United States, where Communism is a matter of academic discussion rather than of life and death.

What Is the U.S. Strategy in Vietnam?

Why Have We Not Won the War?

It is obvious that the war in Vietnam is different from any war in which the U.S. has ever before been engaged. There is no battle line between the two sides. The Viet Cong look just like the South Vietnamese. In theory and by all precedent the U.S. should establish a barrier on the seventeenth parallel to prevent infiltration. But this would not help, as the enemy would just go around the barrier through Laos. As General Wallace Greene, commandant of the Marine Corps, said, "What are you going to do—extend a fence across the entire continent of Asia?"

The war as far as the U.S. is concerned in South Vietnam consists of two programs: (1) a search and destroy operation (2) pacification. The U.S. patrols first have to go out and locate the enemy which are scattered over the country in bands of a few hundred men each. These often live underground in caves like moles. Upon their discovery, helicopters are sent out to destroy them. If they are in large numbers, a special expedition may have to be sent against them.

The second program—pacification—involves separating the Viet Cong from the villagers and the initiation of a rehabilitation program. A hamlet of say about 500-600 people is selected. A cordon is put around the village before dawn. Then with the South Vietnamese troops the hamlet is entered. All the people are assembled, and every individual is screened. The Viet Cong are encouraged to return to loyalty to the government. Otherwise they are taken prisoner. The Viet Cong are very clever in their methods. They hide in wells or try to slip out of the village under cover of darkness. But the cordon usually snares them.

The people themselves are taken out of the hamlet into enclosures, fed, given medical treatment, and identification cards. When the operation is over, a squad of U.S. troops is left and two squads of South Vietnamese army troops. A special training program is then instituted which includes educating the youth and teaching the people advanced agriculture methods. The people are trained to learn allegiance to a national government where formerly it was only to their families and village heads. This program up to the present moment can be

said to be working only moderately well. Unless a strong garrison is kept in the village, the Viet Cong return and ambush both the soldiers and civilians.

The Gravest Danger in Vietnam

The gravest danger the U.S. faces at present in Vietnam is the state of mind of the people themselves. They are a sadly divided nation, and as a result they are showing remarkable indifference to the war. While great efforts are being made to drive out the Viet Cong in contested areas, America is only slowly convincing the Vietnamese in the secure areas that they have a cause worth fighting for. Although inhabitants of the capital city of Saigon hear the dull boom of artillery shells and see the glare of fires lighting the sky on the edge of the city, they go on from day to day almost brutally detached from the reality of the battlefield.

The Vietnamese government is careless in backing up their soldiers. They often have less than the necessities of existence. Life in the Vietnamese army is so frustrating that men often seek every avenue of escape before they will submit to serving their term in the army. Desertions from the Vietnamese army for this year by September 1 totaled 61,000.

The people of Vietnam as a whole are tired of war. At the time of the Diem overthrow, they were expectant of better things, but while the U.S. stood on the sidelines, one military junta after another has been overthrown. The new dawn never came, and each succeeding group of military politicians took a new crack at graft and corruption. Ultimately the people are getting the feeling that they are merely spectators in events that are taking place in their homeland.

America can win the war in Vietnam, but if the government of that country dissolves in a state of chaos, there would be no possible way to make the victory secure. The country would be ready to fall into the lap of the Communists the first moment the U.S. troops leave the country.

Why Have We Not Won the War?

The one ray of hope is the fact that the Vietnamese have voted strongly in the September elections. They were aroused by the vicious effort of the Viet Cong to keep them from voting. It is possible that this election will mark a turning point in the Vietnamese attitude toward the war, and they will get behind America's efforts and save themselves from godless Communism before it is too late.

Chapter III

Dare We Leave Vietnam Without Victory?

In order to understand the Vietnam war from the Christian standpoint, we perhaps should first consider the question as to what the Bible says about war. Does it teach that war is wrong under all circumstances? Does it teach that it is immoral for a Christian to go to war? Should he join with the Vietniks and card-burners in their opposition to this conflict? This is a matter that must be carefully examined from the Scriptures.

Romans 13:1-2 tells us that a Christian should be subject to the higher powers.

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God; and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. (Rom. 13:1-2)

In many references to soldiers in the New Testament, there was no command given for them to resign their posts when they became Christians, but rather they were admonished to serve God faithfully during service for their country. In Matthew 8:5-13, Jesus healed the centurion's servant and commended his faith. In Acts 10:1-48, we have the remarkable incident of the door to the Gentiles' salvation being opened by God's pouring out His Holy Spirit upon the house of Cornelius, who was a Roman centurion.

Apparently, God looks upon a soldier who goes into battle in the same light as that of a policeman who carries arms to defend the citizens of a community against those who would disturb the peace. All of us know that if a police department were removed from a city, it would only be a short time before criminals would

take over and inaugurate a reign of terror.

Nevertheless, the matter of carrying arms does present a problem to a Christian. Although the executioner at a state prison is merely carrying out the will of the state when he executes a criminal, the Christian does not consider this task one appropriate to his calling. Moreover, wars that befall nations usually come as divine judgments. God permits them to happen because of a nation's sins. God said of Assyria which took Israel into captivity that it was **"the rod of mine anger"** (Isa. 10:5-13). Assyria was permitted to punish the nations for their evil. In the end of course, Assyria received judgment herself for her wickedness.

Since wars come as judgments on nations for their sins, it follows that if all people were Christians, there would be no war. Sinners are responsible for wars. Unfortunately, when war comes, the righteous must suffer to some degree with the wicked. Christians as well as non-Christians who go to war may die in battle. As Jesus said, **"For all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword"** (Matt. 26:52). (This statement does not mean that a Christian's soul perishes in battle.)

Despite the fact that the taking of life in battle is not regarded by the Scriptures as murder, there are many Christians who conscientiously feel that they cannot take a human life. Our government recognizes and respects such persons and classifies them as conscientious objectors. Usually conscientious objectors are willing to take the risks of war with the others even though they do not wish to take a life. Many times such men have taken dangerous assignments as non-combatant workers.

On the other hand there are those who by their wickedness have helped bring judgment on the nation and yet want to escape the consequences. These are slackers and cowards. The government is quite right in refusing to recognize such as genuine conscientious objectors.

Now our nation finds herself in a war that is far from her own choosing. An agreement was entered into in 1954 by 14 nations by which North Vietnam was allowed to have a

Communist government. South Vietnam was to be free to go her own way. She desired and chose a non-communist government. But the North Vietnamese in cahoots with Red China and Russia were not willing to keep the agreement. As we have seen, Ho Chi Minh deliberately sent large numbers of guerrillas into South Vietnam for the purpose of making that nation Communist by force. In other words, North Vietnam became a bandit nation and acted without regard to law or the agreement she had signed in 1954. She sought to force South Vietnam to submit to her will by instituting a reign of terror. This little country which had no desire to become a satellite of Ho Chi Minh and of Red China called on America for help.

The whole question simply boils down to this—should America allow Asia, country by country, to be forced into the Communist orbit? We should have learned from the lesson of Hitler. Nothing will stop totalitarianism from its objective of world domination except force. Should America then idly stand by and permit this insatiable and atheistic power that has only contempt for the rights of others to swallow up nation after nation without putting forth an effort to stop the process? It need not be thought that Communists will be satisfied with taking over Asia or even Africa. Cuba on our front doorstep has gone Communist. Persistent efforts are being made by Castro's government to subvert other Latin American republics. Guatemala was Communist for a time. A Communist inspired attempt very nearly succeeded in taking over the Dominican Republic.

America's assistance to South Vietnam is, therefore, a police action to prevent a bandit nation from taking over a weaker one and then using the new resources to attack and swallow up still another country. If this is not their plan, then what are the Communist guerrillas doing in Laos and Thailand? There is not the slightest doubt that were South Vietnam to fall into the Communist orbit, their full attention would be given to an attempted takeover of these countries. Burma and India would come next. Red China has already shown her hand in this respect by invading India in 1952 and occupying a sizeable

chunk of her territory.

What Happens to Christianity When Communists Take Over?

In understanding what a Christian's attitude should be to the Vietnam war, we must understand what happens when Communists take over a country. Enough nations have already fallen into their hands, so that there can be no doubt as to what to expect when it is the fate of a nation to come under their power.

Are Communists satisfied with dominating the political life of a nation, or must they extend their control into the religious sphere of the people also? This is not a question to be settled by academic debate. All we have to do is ascertain what they have done in other countries where they have seized power.

What has happened in Russia? The answer is that public worship there has been all but eliminated. Youth is indoctrinated early into the principles of absolute atheism. The Bolshevik persecution of the church and the massacre of Christians provides one of the bloodiest chapters of history. A relentless war against the church has been the story ever since the Communists came to power in 1918. The few churches which they have left open operate under the tightest restrictions and are permitted to exist only for their propaganda effect on naive tourists who see these few places of worship and go back to America to tell the people that there is still religious freedom in Russia.

What has happened in the Iron Curtain countries? There the story is practically the same. Communism by its very nature must war with Christianity. The two have nothing in common. Neither one is secure while the other exists.

What happened in China? When the Chinese Communists took over, the great missionary work built up over a century was suddenly obliterated. Missionaries fled before the advancing Reds, and those who were too slow in getting out of the way

were thrown into jail—if they were fortunate enough to escape immediate execution. Even as we write, the few nuns left in China were driven out of the country like beasts. One died from maltreatment on the trip to Hong Kong.

The story of Communism wherever it has gone has been the same. The idea of “live and let live” is not a part of their philosophy. Spawned in violence and hatred, it is implacable to Christianity and lacking in even the most elementary principles of humanity. Consider for example the millions of peasants that Stalin deliberately left to starve because they did not show enough alacrity in accepting the atheistic philosophy of the Communists. This is no myth. Khrushchev, who sought to blacken Stalin’s character, boldly exposed the mass atrocities of the Stalin era.

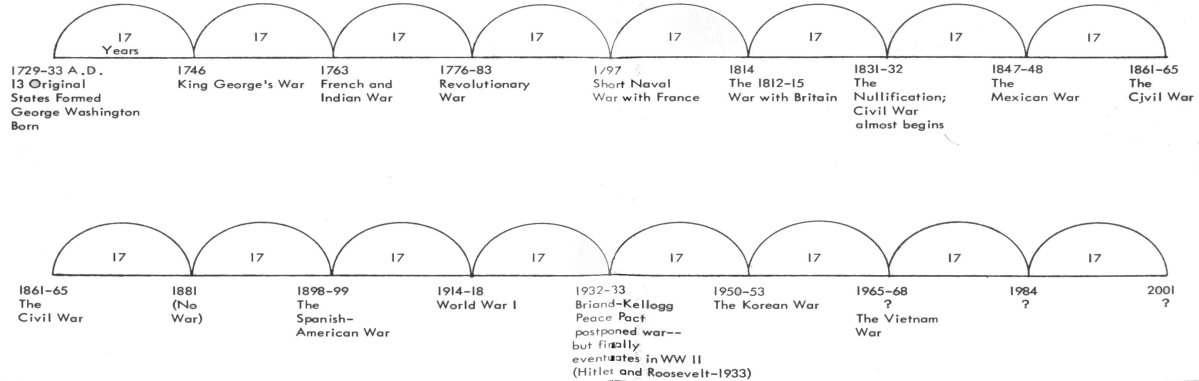
Why is a Communist what he is? Because as we have said he can feel no security as long as Communism and Christianity exist together in the same world. Freedom of speech and freedom of worship are incompatible with this philosophy. Communists realize that they cannot gain power in any nation by peaceful methods. Hence their only alternative is to advocate revolution by violence. Since they cannot win an honest election, they must seize power through treachery and subversion. Khrushchev was not joking when he told America, “We will bury you.” He was merely expressing the basic philosophy and method by which Communism seeks to attain its goal.

Let every Christian beware that if Communism were ever to come to power in America, he should be prepared to retain his faith in Christ at the cost of his life. Let no one say, “It can’t happen here.”

The Vietnam War in Prophecy

The Amazing War-cycles of America

(with one or two exceptions the U.S. has
a war every 17 years)



The United States In Prophecy

In our book, *The United States in Prophecy*, we showed that the wars of the United States have not occurred by chance but at regular seventeen-year cycles,—(with one or two exceptions). The above chart shows clearly that the United States would probably be at war at least to 1967. It also shows that a divine providence is overruling the affairs of America.

What Would Happen If America Withdrew From Vietnam Without Victory?

Because of the nature of Communism and its inflexible goals, there cannot be the slightest doubt as to what would happen in Southeast Asia were the U.S. to withdraw from Vietnam without victory. The withdrawal would certainly be represented as a Communist victory. The Chinese have stood against the present Russian policy of “co-existence,” which is born of fear of atomic war. A victory by a third-class nation over the United States would greatly strengthen the most bellicose factions of the Communist world. A withdrawal by the U.S. without victory would demoralize such nations as Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand that have supported the stand against Communism. *The opportunity to spread Christianity to those countries would be lost, possibly forever.*

Other Asian countries are watching America’s willingness to honor her commitments. Their future policy will depend on their confidence in America’s support against the Chinese nuclear blackmail. The outcome of the Vietnam war will basically affect their future policy. The war, therefore, is not a war to save Vietnam alone, but it is a war against the ambitions of the Communists for world dominion.

If the American Congress realized the true state of things, it would call a state of national emergency. The president would be authorized to mobilize such reserves as are necessary for an all-out effort to bring an early end to the Communist attempt to

turn South Vietnam into another satellite. The world must know that the U.S. stands unalterably opposed to the further spread of the cancer of Communism. America has allowed this relentless enemy of Christianity to take over far too much of the world already. To permit it to spread further would be tantamount to committing national suicide. If we lose this battle, Armageddon will be at our doors sooner than we think.

Today we face the frightening prospect of our children's being enslaved by the cursed evil of Communism. Do we grasp the terrible significance of having our own offspring subverted to the godless teachings of this sworn enemy? It is to be feared that we do not. Certainly, America must stand firm in her determination to resist the further spread of Communism and not to permit it to take over by force South Vietnam or any other nation.

Has Escalation Endangered the U.S.?

As we have said, the reason we are still involved in the Vietnam war is that fear of China's entering the conflict has prevented the U.S. from taking the necessary measures to bring it to an early end. Nevertheless, it has become gradually apparent that China or no China, the war cannot be won without its being stepped up. The North Vietnamese, desperate in their purpose, have no intention of giving up. That their soldiers are dying in large numbers has little effect upon them. Life to them is cheap. The U.S. has at last been forced to escalate the war by bombing military targets in North Vietnam. Unfortunately, the steps we have taken are almost too late for them to be really effective. For the past year the Communists have been feverishly dispersing their industry and supply depots throughout the jungles.

Nevertheless, the bombing of North Vietnam has definitely reduced the capacity of the Communists to make war. They have been hurt badly. The question now is, has this escalation endangered the U.S.? What are the facts?

Dare We Leave Vietnam Without Victory?

In 1964, China's enemy Nikita Khrushchev was removed from power on the same day China exploded her first atomic bomb. Chinese prestige at that moment was at its highest. The Reds had achieved primary influence in both North Vietnam and North Korea. They had seized Tibet and humiliated India in the Himalayas in 1962. Southeast Asia countries out of fear were making up with China. Prince Souvanna Phouma, premier of Laos, was in a state of indecision, wondering which way to move.

The decision of the U.S. administration to bomb North Vietnam changed all that. Today Phouma is allowing American pilots to fly over his territory and to bomb the Viet Cong. In 1964, the Communists infiltrated into North Thailand. It is still a serious problem, but now the Thai government is giving the U.S. powerful support by allowing its air force bases to be used to bomb North Vietnam.

Americans dare depart from Vietnam only when sufficient safeguards are set up which will prevent the Communists for any time in the foreseeable future to repeat their attempt to take over this nation. By doing this, Communists will be less inclined to try military adventures elsewhere.

Chapter IV

Red China's Plans for the Future

During the past two decades the Red Chinese leaders have devoted themselves to the task of promoting a great Chinese empire. Every move has been to that end. They have regimented their vast population into a military machine with the fantastic idea of gradually taking over Asia and then the world. They backed North Korea in an attempted seizure of the South Korean republic. Later they pillaged and swallowed up Tibet. They made war on India and seized a portion of her Himalayan territory. They are now supporting North Vietnam in her predatory war against South Vietnam. They have split with Russia because their grandiose dreams of world dominion conflict with those of the Soviets. They have mortgaged the nation's economy and kept their people on the verge of starvation in this all-out effort.

How Strong Is Red China?

The question now arises as to how strong Red China really is. Is she ready to confront the U.S. in an all-out war with South Vietnam? What are the facts?

Many of our statesmen believe that there is grave danger that China will attack the U.S., if America continues to aid the South Vietnamese in resisting the Communist invasion. These fears are founded on the fact that the Chinese in the Korean war fought the U.S. to a standstill.

This is a sobering thought and one to give all of us due pause. The threat of war with a nation of over 700 million people is not to be taken lightly. However, there are several important differences between the Korean War and the Vietnamese War.

1. At that time Russia backed China with a vast and uninterrupted supply of captured Japanese war material. China does not have this source of supply now.
2. The U.S. granted the Chinese a sanctuary on the other side of the Yalu River. Had MacArthur been given the liberty to strike their supply depots, the Chinese Communist menace could have been ended there and then. As MacArthur bitterly commented, never before in the history of war had the enemy been given a sanctuary.
3. The Chinese had been apparently tipped off by some diplomats in the British Embassy that they would be permitted this sanctuary.
4. The Chinese in the Korean War could move masses of troops into battle because the area was comparatively level. By contrast, high and precipitous mountain ranges lie between China and North Vietnam. In event of war, supplies would have to be moved through mountain passes that are extremely vulnerable to bombing. At present the passes are open because Chinese territory enjoys a sanctuary. This would no longer be true once China entered the war.

Because of these reasons the Chinese were able to hold their own against the U.S. in Korea. She had the manpower and was able to bring it to bear against the U.S. On the other hand, U.S. policy did not permit her vastly superior air power to be brought to bear against the Chinese.

China's Weaknesses

The Chinese, during the past two years have suffered a series of reverses. Despite her threats, her bellicose attitude has been mostly that of empty gestures. The Communists inspired by Peking thought to take over Indonesia. Today the Communist party in that country has been virtually wiped out. The Communists' bid for power there has completely failed. Even in Cuba, Castro has deported his Chinese Communist partisans.

China has no capacity for making jet aircraft. Oil reserves and refining capacity have not been developed. Her electric power industry is small in comparison to her needs. Highways and railroads are primitive by modern standards. What planes she has are mostly obsolescent fighters. Russia is no longer supplying the Red Chinese with planes.

China talks big but cannot deliver. She thought to provide a new idea of world revolution in the underdeveloped countries. Neither Asia, Africa, nor South America is inclined to accept it. She proved her weakness by not coming to the aid of the Communists in Indonesia. She has tried to play the role of a global power, while lacking material and military resources. She lacks industrialization in her cities, and with her agriculture in a primitive state she is in no position to carry on as a major power.

Her one asset is a vast pool of manpower. *If the U.S. were to get bogged down in a conventional land war in China, the result would be disastrous indeed. But China is separated from Vietnam by a chain of high, rugged mountains.* Communication by railroad through two mountain passes which can easily be blocked by bombing the bridges could eliminate that threat. There could be no mass marching of Chinese troops into Vietnam as occurred in North Korea or Tibet. China cannot be an effective power in materially changing the situation in Vietnam. Nevertheless, a war with China would be terribly costly and frustrating, unless nuclear power were used.

Will Red China Enter the War in Vietnam?

It is impossible to guarantee that China will not enter the conflict. Nonetheless, she probably will not get involved in this war unless she feels she is losing face. The Oriental will take any risk; he will even commit suicide if he thinks he has lost face. This fact was borne out in the Japanese war in the Pacific. When military commanders failed, they would commit suicide. The Oriental leader will take his nation along with him to suicide if he feels it is necessary to save his honor. His ideas of honor of course are very different from those of the West.

Terrible as a Chinese-American war could be, military men believe that this is the best thing that could happen in the long range view. The U.S. at the present time could crush China in a matter of hours with her nuclear potential if she used it. Of course if the U.S. did not employ her atomic armament, there would probably be another Korea—a stalemate. It would be fatal to attempt to invade China with conventional weapons. And there would be the terrible decision to make, if the U.S. were to initiate nuclear warfare.

What Would Russia Do In Event Of A Chinese-U.S. War?

In the event of a U.S.-Chinese clash, what position would Russia take? Would she use her nuclear arsenal to save China? Not likely. The two have become mortal enemies. There is not room on this earth for two Communist giants. Russia has already shown her policy under such circumstances. If past history is any guide, she would probably let America defeat China; then she would move in and gather up the spoils as she did when the U.S. defeated Japan. If this happened, there is little doubt that she would leave her armies in China to make the whole or a large part of the country another Iron Curtain territory. Russia did that very thing in the Polish war. She let Hitler do the fighting, and toward the close she moved in and took possession of a large part of the country.

The Real Danger of China

Nevertheless, in time to come China poses a fearful danger to the world. If she does not enter the Vietnam war, China will continue to throw her entire resources into developing her nuclear weapons. By the 1980's, things will have greatly changed. She will then have the hydrogen bomb—not as many as the U.S. has, but enough to blackmail the Orient. General Powers, former commander of the Strategic Air Command, pointed out on “Meet the Press,” a national telecast, that by 1980

or even sooner, the situation of China will present extreme danger. By that time she will not only have the hydrogen bomb, but the means to deliver it. She will then have the power to enforce her will in the Orient. All Asia trembles at the very thought of it.

Red China and the Atomic Bomb

A few weeks before China exploded her first atomic bomb, we wrote in our "March of Prophecy" column as follows:

Mao Tse-tung's dream is to make China a super power in his lifetime. Some experts believe he has enough plutonium for making at least one bomb now, but is holding back testing until the proper psychological moment.

That psychological moment came a few hours after their special enemy Khrushchev fell from power. In an interview, Dr. Chu Yuang Ching of the University of Michigan had this to say about China and her A-bomb:

India, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Burma are the countries in the greatest danger. The Chinese Communist leaders intend to restore China's old imperial boundaries which at one time included Southeast Asia.

Professor Ching added that "China has paid a fearful price in getting the A-bomb with which she hopes to intimidate her neighbors. It has brought her people to the brink of starvation. Certainly, she hopes to get the most out of the sacrifice." Red China's plan, like Hitler's, is to swallow up her neighbors one by one and use their resources to supply the means for further expansion.

Although China now has the bomb, she does not yet have the rockets to carry it. The moment she successfully launches the first long range rocket, it will have a tremendous impact upon surrounding countries. Moreover, China's population explosion is exerting a powerful influence on her course. The current population of China is estimated at well over 700 million with an annual increase of 13 million. She is looking for extra space

to take care of this increasing population.

Although some think China's big missile program is a decade away, Dr. Ching considers it a dangerous mistake to underestimate China's rocket capacity. Along with the development of the bomb, she has carried on a parallel program with rockets.

Although many think America's big problem is how to get out of Vietnam gracefully, or how to bring the Viet Cong to terms, *the real problem and a fearful one that America must some day face, is how to deal with an irresponsible nation that will have hydrogen bombs which can destroy the world's largest cities in a few seconds of time.* In China, life is cheap. It would not trouble her to lose several hundred million people in carrying out her reckless schemes.

China and a Nuclear War

It is interesting to note that while Khrushchev was in power, he quoted the following statement about the next war as coming from Mao.

Can you guess how great will be the toll of human casualties in a future war? Possibly it will be a third of the inhabitants of the entire world.... Personally I think that in the entire world of humanity, perhaps even more than half will perish. If half of humanity were destroyed, the other half would still remain, but imperialism would be destroyed entirely and there would be only socialism in all the world.

Mao speaking in Yugoslavia in 1957 said:

We aren't afraid of atomic bombs. What if they killed even 300 million (Chinese)? We would still have plenty more. China would be the last nation to die.

As for Russia, the chance of preventing her from becoming a world menace was lost in World War II, when the U.S. saved her from Hitler's wrath by sending vast quantities of supplies to her. Russia will play a part in the end-time drama right up to the

battle of Armageddon. Only God can deal with her, and He will. (See Ezekiel 37-38.)

The Possibility of a Chinese-Soviet Rapprochement

One thing more should be mentioned about Chinese-Soviet relations. Some writers claim that the “split” is only a gigantic conspiracy conjured up for the purpose of luring the Western World into false security. Such, however, could hardly be true. The snarling Communist regimes of Russia and China are jealous rivals jockeying for world power, and neither wishes to be dominated by the other. Their fierce quarrel is a real one and not put on.

Nevertheless, the Russians show remarkable restraint in their dealings with the Chinese. Although both sides blast each other with all the venom at their command, so far there is no hint of a diplomatic rupture. Although future relations look bleak to the Kremlin at the moment, they know that the aging Mao cannot last much longer. And then things may change.

Chinese policy has caused the nation to lose prestige in North Korea, in the African states, and in Indonesia. However, if and when a new regime comes to power in China, the whole basic policy could easily be changed. *This new policy might effect a rapprochement with Russia—a development that could completely change the world picture, not to America's good but to her ill.* It is well to remember that World War II followed in a matter of days after the sworn and bitter enemies, Hitler and Stalin, formed a nonaggression pact and like jackals divided up the prostrate Poland.

Chapter V

Chiang Kai-shek Views the Situation in the Orient

Chiang Kai-shek has been an international figure for nearly half a century. In his youthful years he studied the writings of Lenin, but after a careful consideration of them he repudiated Communism and all its works. In the late twenties he married a Soong sister. Under her influence he was led to begin a study of the Bible. After months of searching the Scriptures, he became convinced that they were the Word of God, and he made an open profession of faith in Christ. He is a believer in evangelical Christianity and has expressed his belief in the soon coming of Christ.

As a Christian he has been a mortal foe of Communism and refused to accept the suggestion of George Marshall that he form a coalition government with the Communists. For this refusal he received much criticism. Many accusations of corruption in his government were made against him. It is not improbable that some of his officials were guilty, for it is an almost impossible task to purge out all the incompetents in a time of war and revolution. Nevertheless, he was the steadying force that kept China on the side of the allies throughout World War II, despite the great pressure put on him to make a separate peace with Japan. While Chiang Kai-shek was not without troubles caused by those in his own ranks, he was one of the world's outstanding leaders, and America's gravest mistake was abandoning this faithful ally in favor of the Chinese Reds. As a result of that blunder, today we have a nation of over 700 million Chinese arraigned against us, instead of for us. The evils that may have plagued Chiang's government are picayune indeed compared with those of the Chinese Red government that has destroyed the Christian church in China and now blatantly seeks to overthrow

and extirpate both democracy and Christianity from the face of the earth.

After Chiang Kai-shek fled to Formosa, he set up his government there. Freed from the constant harassment of the Communists, he has performed a remarkable achievement in turning the backward and primitive Formosa into a prosperous and progressive modern state.

His unrelenting stand against Communism makes him one of America's foremost allies in the Orient. His views of the Vietnam situation in the light of his Christian faith and long experience with Communist treachery take on a significant meaning. His warning against the grave danger of Red China's securing the hydrogen bomb is something for Americans not to turn lightly aside. Chiang's review of the past which led to the present war and his comments on the situation in Vietnam as reported in *U.S. News and World Report*, August 9, 1965, are worthy of careful study. He said:

During the time of the Japanese attacks on China beginning with the invasion of Manchuria September 18, 1931, the Chinese Communists began their insurrection in the Yangtze Valley in coordination with the steady Japanese encroachments in the north. Thus the government of the Republic of China was caught in a gigantic pincer movement and had to fight on two fronts. Our war resistance against the Japanese following the Marco Polo Bridge incident on July 7, 1937, lasted for eight long years.

After Japan's unconditional surrender, Soviet troops quickly poured into our northeast provinces and Stalin lost no time in arming the Chinese Communists with captured Japanese arms. This enabled them to start their all-out insurrection against the Chinese government. Stalin's puppet, the Chinese Communists, replaced Japan as a predatory force against China's legal government.

Toward the end of World War II, statesmen in various allied countries were afraid that the peace might be lost although a war was being won. Unfortunately post-war developments have proved that their apprehension was well founded. Though the United States fought side by side with

China to win the war in East Asia and the Pacific, China was betrayed at Yalta, and her sacrifices lasting over a period of 14 years came to nought.

The United States closed her eyes to the Chinese government's efforts to suppress the Communist insurrection in order to preserve China's national unity and to maintain world peace. The United States even withheld promised military support from the Chinese government. When the Chinese Communists succeeded in seizing the China mainland, the free world lost the rampart for peace throughout East Asia.

Today the Chinese Communists are using the Chinese mainland as a base for subversion and aggression against the whole free world. They regard the United States as their prime enemy and are defiantly moving against Asia, Africa, and America.

Right now, the international Communists and their fellow travellers are working overtime among the American people spreading insidious propaganda and creating political pressures, all for the purpose of inducing the United States to repeat her post-war mistake through abandoning the stand she has hitherto maintained in Asia, by gradually withdrawing from the Orient.

The firm stand of the United States in the Vietnam war provides a ray of hope for safeguarding Asian freedom and world peace. To regain victory from a lost peace and re-establish a genuine peace so as to make amends for the deficiencies left by World War II, is the unshirkable responsibility of the United States, since she is the acknowledged leader of the free world both morally and politically.

The Great Mistake the U.S. Made After World War II in China

The Generalissimo was then asked about the U.S. policy in the year 1949, when the Communists took over the mainland. His answer followed:

One great mistake is that, at the end of World War II, the United States failed to realize the disasters that would follow

should the Communists seize the China mainland.

Instead of helping the Government of the Republic of China in our campaign to eliminate the Communist menace, the United States hamstrung us and thereby, in effect, helped and bolstered the Chinese Communists.

Had those occupying key political and military positions in the United States at the time realized the strategic value of the mainland of China to the United States on the other side of the Pacific, Asian history for the past 20 years would not have been written on bloodstained pages, and 600 million Chinese would have remained friends instead of becoming, under duress, enemies of the United States.

All these have come to pass because of the shameful secret Treaty of Yalta. Had there been no Yalta, the China mainland today would not pose a military threat to the free world, and Stalin would not have had the opportunity to arm the Chinese Communists with military supplies surrendered by the Japanese.

Chiang Kai-Shek's Long Range Proposal for The Pacific

The Generalissimo, when asked, outlined a plan for the future:

First promote the formation of an effective alliance of Asian nations that have been victimized or endangered by Communist aggression, so that whenever any one of them should be attacked, the rest would be duty bound to aid it. The United States being the arsenal of democracy would contribute weapons and logistic support, but American ground forces need not take part in any fighting in East Asia.

Second, provide logistic support to the government of the Republic of China in its action to recover the mainland and restore her territorial sovereignty.

Third, destroy the Communists' nuclear installations before they can amass a stockpile of atomic weapons and develop a system of delivery.

Fourth, pay serious attention to Mao Tse-tung's program

Chiang Kai-shek Views the Situation in the Orient

for world revolution after World War II, a document read into the U.S. Senate records on April 29, 1954. The timetable has been delayed, but the program is otherwise being carried out.

We Asians believe the Peiping regime is totally irresponsible and that if it can produce in the next year or two a very small number of say ten atomic bombs, however crude they may be, it will not hesitate to use them on its anti-Communist neighbors. There is even the possibility that within the coming five years, or ten years, Peiping may be able to develop a long-range delivery system ... Is the free world to stand still and thus condone the fall of Asia into Communist hands? Must we wait for Peiping's atomic weapons to upset the world's nuclear balance and plunge mankind into global nuclear holocaust?

We believe that the Christian general Chiang Kai-shek has analyzed the situation in the Orient correctly. Unfortunately, America has waited almost too late to heed his warnings.

We must ever keep in mind that a Communist does not react as a reasonable man, or else he would not be a Communist in the first place. If Ho Chi Minh were operating according to reason, he would have eagerly accepted the offer of peace on honorable terms during the Christmas truce of 1965. He would not have continued to send his men to certain death by the tens of thousands. He would not be willing to see his land reduced to rubble by bombing. But his own pride is at stake. Communism has the peculiar effect of making men desperate. They will fight on although the only reward is agony or death. A fresh stream of young men from North Vietnam are being constantly thrown into the battle, and the supply is almost inexhaustible. China and Russia are sending large quantities of supplies to Ho Chi Minh. Thus, there seems no way for America to bring the war to a speedy end. The Communists are trained to live off the land, and the populace is forced to feed them or be ruthlessly exterminated. These guerrilla bands hide away in the caves of the earth. Under these discouraging circumstances America fights on without seeing any hope of immediate victory. Yet if the U.S. should give up, the Communists will take over not only South Vietnam, but they will continue their move to swallow up

all of Asia.

Of course as far as North Vietnam is concerned, America could win the war in a matter of days through the employment of nuclear warfare. But once the atomic genie is let out of the bottle, who can tell what might happen? Therefore, America fights on in a thankless, bitter, frustrating task with no end in sight. Or is there a way out? There is, but will America take that course? In our final chapter, we show what can be done, if the people of America would choose that way.

Chapter VI

What We Can Do

The question must have entered the reader's mind as to why God has permitted Communism to rise and menace mankind the way it has. Certainly, this terrible evil could not have reached its present position of power in the earth unless God had permitted it.

In the larger sense, God has allowed Communism to plague the world because it has rejected Christ. Jesus said to the Jews, **"I am come in my Father's name and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive"** (John 5:43).

Communism is in reality a religion of atheism. The vast majority of people in America, as well as other nations, acknowledge God by lip service but deny Him by their works. They live as if God did not exist. Communism, therefore, comes to fill the spiritual vacuum. Having risen to its position of dominance, it is allowed to punish the world. In the end judgment will fall upon it, and it will be destroyed forever; but in the meantime it is the instrument permitted by God to chasten the nations. **"When thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness"** (Isa. 26:9). This principle of war's being divine judgment upon nations was acknowledged by Abraham Lincoln in his call to America to give herself to humiliation and prayer in the days of the Civil War.

The War Could Have Been Averted

America had several opportunities to avoid the situation in which she finds herself. Had she recognized the terrible evil of Communism and its violent hatred of Christianity, our statesmen

would never have demanded that Chiang Kai-shek should take the Communists into his nationalist government. It was almost inexcusable that our leaders should be so ignorant of the nature of Communism as to suppose that the Chinese Reds were mere "agrarian reformers." The fact is that the moment any man becomes a Communist, he also becomes a victim of demon power. The common laws of honesty, integrity, and humanity cease to have any meaning to him.

From then on his whole outlook on life is warped. He does recognize, however, that Christianity and Communism are incompatible, a fact which many Christians do not recognize. The Communist knows he can enjoy no security until Christianity is destroyed from the earth.

America missed a great opportunity to end the Communist menace in the Orient in the days of the Korean war. MacArthur waited for the go-ahead signal. Russia had only a few atomic bombs and no rockets to deliver them. The Chinese Communist problem could have ended there and then. But the opportunity was allowed to pass.

What is the reason that America has blundered the way she has in making these fateful decisions? The real reason is that this nation's sins have blinded her. America's morals have sunk to a new low. In the colleges, virginity among coeds is largely a thing of the past; in fact it is considered a joke. Homosexuality and perversion have found a place even among high officials in Washington, D.C. Violence reigns in our streets. Juvenile delinquency has become a major problem in our large cities. Materialism and greed for worldly gain dominate the thinking of the masses. In the churches there is a form of godliness that denies the power thereof. It has come even to the place that some say that God is dead. People spend their nights drinking and reveling. The foyers of the movie houses vie with one another in displaying the vulgarity and depravity of their offerings. Television with its often lewd fare is watched by impressionable children many hours each day.

Evil holds forth in high places. The members of the Supreme

Court by their decisions permit a flood of obscene publications that had been thrown out by the postal authorities, to be returned to the mails. At the same time they have banned Bible reading and prayer in the schools. As a result pornographic books that cater to the debased tastes of men and women flood the newsstands. One member of the Supreme Court has just married a 23-year-old coed. He is 67. This is his fourth marriage. The former wives have divorced him on charges of cruelty and indignities. As our leaders go, so goes the nation.

During the 1950's America had a revival. It was her chance to turn to God and to seek righteousness. But she let a great opportunity pass. Nevertheless, it is not yet too late. If the church would fall on her knees and intercede with God, impending judgment could be delayed. When Jonah preached repentance to Nineveh, the great city took heed and repented. Nineveh as a result was spared.

For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything: let them not feed, nor drink water: But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not? And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said he would do unto them; and he did it not. (Jonah 3:6-10)

If five years ago the Christians of America had banded together in intercessory prayer, the terrible Vietnam conflict could have been avoided. Now America must battle the Communist menace with the flesh and blood of her sons. Those who suppose that the Communist problem can be solved by shutting their eyes to it or by merely bringing the boys home from Vietnam will have a terrible awakening some day if their

wishes are carried out. Communism has no other purpose than to dominate the earth. The day that is accomplished will be the day word goes out to destroy Christianity.

It is a high price we are paying in Vietnam, but it cannot be helped. There is no alternative but to stand our ground and prevent Communism's further spread.

But there is one thing every Christian can do. We can unite our faith in a prayer warfare against these terrible forces of evil. In the Spirit, God gave us these words about the Vietnam war and the Christians there:

“This is the hour that thou must claim the victory for them and take dominion over their discouragement. For they are cast down because of the terror about them and the fear. But I have given orders and commanded them that they shall be raised above it, and they shall take dominion with me in the heavenlies. Although the arrow flies above them, they are to remember that they are anchored in the 91st Psalm.

For the heavens are darkened and the heavens are disturbed and the elements are confused with demon forces. But this I have called you to do, my dear children, that thou shalt penetrate these forces by prayer: You shall call your groups together in a special time of prayer for Saigon and the people of the Lord there and the soldiers and the ministers, that you shall break this chain. Yea, it shall break the left wing. As I have commanded, so shall it be.

And therefore, you shall get the word to them at as early a time as possible. It shall be a pervading incense against those works of dynamic forces, and my people shall be delivered and set free, if thou wilt believe this. It shall become truth and it shall become history in the time that I will speak, if thou wilt send these words in divine authority, with a group praying there and a group praying here. But thou shalt not call everyone into it. Thou shalt call an inner circle, those upon whom you can depend. Even as the service of the United States chooses trained soldiers for certain places, so choose trained ones who are ready to pray and ready to act. And the angel of the Lord will come also and will execute vengeance against the enemy, even the devil, and he will break the chains

What We Can Do

of the enemy; he will deliver the captives out of his bonds. And this is the truth, saith the Lord. If thou wilt believe it, thou shalt see it come to pass.

Second, every Christian should pledge himself to the limit of his faith to back the missionary work in foreign fields. The opportunity is still open in Vietnam to spread the gospel among the inhabitants by means of literature. If God's people will enter into determined intercession and give liberally of their means to a world outreach, the forces of evil can be stayed and the churches working and praying together can bring back the King. Christ's return to earth will solve every problem. The demons of darkness will be forced back into the pit, and the light of Christ will spread abroad over the face of the whole earth. The challenge is here; may the church rise to it.

We would add this final note. Is your boy or a loved one over on Vietnam soil? Your faithful prayers can protect him from danger. Many wonderful testimonies are recounted by soldiers of miraculous deliverances from death as the result of faith and prayer. The least we can do for those over there who are risking their lives for America is that we be faithful in praying for them. Prayer changes things. Make a resolution now to become a member of God's great prayer army. The reward will be great. (Read Ezekiel 9:3-6.)

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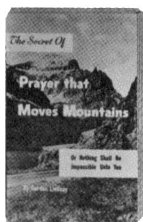
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